

Reed  
Risch  
Romney  
Rosen  
Rounds  
Rubio  
Sanders  
Sasse  
Schatz  
Schumer  
Shaheen  
Sinema  
Smith  
Stabenow  
Tester  
Thune  
Tillis  
Toomey  
Van Hollen  
Warner  
Warrick  
Warren  
Whitehouse  
Wicker  
Wyden  
Young

## NAYS—19

Blackburn	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Boozman	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Braun	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Hagerty	Marshall	
Hawley	Paul	

## NOT VOTING—1

Inhofe

The nomination was confirmed.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

## UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, as if in executive session, I ask that the motion to reconsider with respect to the Pagan nomination be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## ENERGY

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I come to the floor this evening to offer a few remarks about claims that have been made on this floor over the course of the last few days regarding the path forward to American energy independence.

The oil industry—reaping record profits in the billions of dollars—is taking advantage, quite artfully, of the crisis in Ukraine to make arguments to the U.S. Congress and this administration that they should be given new liberties to drill on lands in the United States to be able to reap even greater profits.

And the claim that the oil industry makes that is often parroted by friends inside this body is that the path to American energy independence runs through drilling for more oil in the United States of America. That is not true. That is an oil industry talking point. That is a means by which the industry can get Congress and the administration to provide them with new opportunities for more profit.

But the facts belie the argument that America could achieve energy independence solely through drilling for more oil and exploring for more gas in the United States. Why do we know this? Well, we know this, primarily, because the oil industry doesn't drill in the United States to benefit our national security. They drill in the United States to make money. And the reality is, when the price of a barrel of oil is too low compared to the cost of pulling it out of the ground in the United States, the oil companies don't drill. Right now, for instance, the oil industry has thousands of leases to drill on public lands that they are not utilizing.

As you would hear it on the floor of the Senate, the failure to be energy

independent is Joe Biden's fault because he is not providing for any new leases on public lands. Well, you do not need any new leases on public lands because there are thousands of leases that the oil industry already has to drill that they just are not using. There is nothing in the ground. There is no oil coming up. And the reason for that is, well, the economy was in shambles, so there wasn't demand; the price of oil was down so that the companies didn't see a big enough profit; there is a general workforce shortage right now in the industry. But none of those reasons are Joe Biden. Those are market-based reasons why the oil industry has not been drilling on land they already own.

The second reason why there is not a path to energy independence through drilling alone is because the oil that we drill in the United States, it doesn't stay in the United States. Some of it does, but much of it gets exported. In 2020, we were drilling about 18 million barrels a day in the United States. About half of that was shipped overseas. Only half of that stayed in the United States. I wanted to make sure that wasn't something we needed to pay closer attention to.

The oil that we drill in the United States doesn't stay here. It goes to the highest bidder. In fact, often, the oil we drill in the United States is going to China. For as hard as my friends on the other side of the aisle say we should be on China, the reality is, during some months of the last several years, America was sending record amounts of oil from U.S. oil production facilities to the Chinese Government.

It just isn't true that there is a path to American energy security simply by drilling for more oil in the United States. That oil only comes out of the ground when the price is high enough. The oil industry doesn't drill to be patriotic. They drill to make money. And there is never a guarantee that that oil or that gas stays in the United States; much of it is sent overseas.

As I mentioned, there is also no argument to be made credibly that Joe Biden is waging some war on American energy independence.

The two biggest changes that are often cited that the President made: One is, as I referenced, this pause on new leases on public lands. That just has very little impact because, first of all, very little of the oil that the industry drills is on public lands. Only 10 percent of the oil the industry drills is on public lands. Ninety percent of it is on privately held lands, so a pause on 10 percent of the leases just doesn't have a macro effect on oil drilling.

Second, any leases that the administration would give out right now, they don't end up in drilling occurring for years. So whether or not we are pausing or not pausing leases on 10 percent of the opportunities to drill in the United States, that has an impact years from now, not today.

The argument is, "Well, the President stopped the Keystone Pipeline

from going into effect." Same thing. The Keystone Pipeline was years out; and, second, most of the Keystone Pipeline oil wasn't staying in the United States. Most of that oil was going to be shipped overseas.

There is a reason why the Keystone Pipeline was ending up near the terminals in the Gulf that ended up sending oil to places other than the United States. Once again, the Keystone Pipeline was not a guarantee for American energy independence; that was a guarantee that the majority of that oil was going to end up in some other country.

And so if you are serious about energy independence, then you are not serious if you are talking about getting there through drilling. This is not a serious solution, because the facts tell you that the drilling only happens when the oil industry makes enough money and that the lion's share, at least half of that oil and gas, can end up going overseas, not to American consumers.

Do you know how you do make this country energy independent? Investing in renewables, because we don't ship wind power overseas. We don't ship solar energy overseas. When a wind turbine is running in Iowa or a solar panel is generating energy in California, that energy goes straight onto the American grid. That energy stays right here in the United States.

Now, it also has a tremendous benefit of being clean energy, of not contributing to the warming of the planet. That alone is a good enough reason to prioritize clean energy over fossil fuel energy, but renewable energy also has the benefit of being truly domestic energy; truly secure, American-only energy, as opposed to fossil fuels, which only get turned on when the price is high enough and often end up leaving the United States to other countries.

Those are the facts. The oil industry delights when crises like this occur and the prices go up at the pump, and friends of theirs come down and claim that the only path to energy independence is through more drilling. But the problem is it just isn't true.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about our Nation's energy policy and the crisis that we find ourselves in as the cost of energy continues to go up and up and up.

Right now, gas prices are nearly double what they were the day that Joe Biden became President of the United States.

So you ask: Why is this happening? That is what consumers, that is what